

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 009375

R 031846Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7879

INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01650

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, EAID, MU

SUBJECT: OMANI FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON MASIRAH  
ISLAND, TOW MISSILES, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND INTERNAL  
OMANI ORGANIZATION

SUMMARY: OMANIS WILL KEEP THEIR HEADS DOWN AT THIS  
WEEK'S CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING BUT STICK BY THEIR LINE  
ON US USE OF MASIRAH. THEY WANT TO ENCOURAGE MORE DIRECT  
CONTACT BETWEEN MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS AND OMANI  
TROOPS. JORDANIAN FIGHTING CONTINGENT COMING TO OMAN  
(PROBABLY DHOFAR). AGREEMENT WITH IRAN AGAINST GULF  
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POLLUTION NEARING CONCLUSION. KHALATBARY AND PRINCE

FAH'D LIKELY TO VISIT OMAN IN NEAR FUTURE. ZAWAWI SAYS HE WILL REMAIN FOREIGN MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

1. OMANI FONMIN QAIS ZAWAWI DROPPED IN FOR MORNING COFFEE FEBRUARY 3 TO SAY GOODBYE BEFORE FLYING BACK TO MUSCAT FEBRUARY 4. HE COMMENTED ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS BELOW.

2. RE MASIRAH ISLAND, HE SAID OMANI GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO DENY REPORTS IN ARAB PRESS THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY AGREEMENT WITH USG OR THAT QUESTION OF A BASE AS SUCH IS INVOLVED. HIS DEPUTY, THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WILL REPRESENT OMAN AT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING STARTING IN CAIRO FEBRUARY 5 DOES NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO BRIEF OTHER ARAB REPRESENTATIVES BEYOND THAT. OMANIS HAVE TOLD OTHER ARABS PRIVATELY THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THEIR PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR US MOVES AGAINST ARAB OIL INSTALLATIONS IN THE GULF, AND THEY ARE AT PRESENT TRYING TO AVOID THAT LINE OF DISCUSSION ALTOGETHER. FOR THIS SAME REASON ZAWAWI WOULD PREFER THAT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF OMANI AND BRITISH AGREEMENT FOR US USE OF MASIRAH COME AFTER FEBRUARY 9. HE WAS QUICK TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT OMANI GOVERNMENT IS NOT SENSITIVE ON THIS ISSUE AND WILL STICK BY ITS DECISION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ARAB CRITICISM.

3. ON TOW MISSILE TRAINING, ZAWAWI TOLD US IDEA HAD BEEN TO GET OMANI OFFICERS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH US TRAINERS RATHER THAN WORKING THROUGH BRITISH INTERMEDIARIES. OMANIS DO NOT INTEND ANY CHANGE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BRITISH. HOWEVER, THERE IS ALREADY IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN OMAN MILITARY EFFORT, AND OMANIS EXPECT JORDANIAN PARTICIPATION TO INCREASE IN NEAR FUTURE TOO. (HE INDICATED DETAILS FOR ARRIVAL OF A JORDANIAN FIGHTING CONTINGENT ARE WELL ADVANCED, ALTHOUGH THE NUMBERS WILL PROBABLY BE LOWER THAN THOSE OF THE IRANIANS AT LEAST TO BEGIN WITH. IRANIANS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ASSIST WITH SUPPORT FOR THE JORDANIAN CONTINGENT.) OMANIS WANT THEIR MILITARY TO GET USED TO DEALING DIRECTLY WITH THESE PROVIDERS OF EQUIPMENT, IN-SECRET

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CLUDING USG, ALTHOUGH IN TOW CASE JORDANIANS MAY ALSO HELP LATER IN TRAINING OMANI TROOPS.

4. ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN, ZAWAWI SAID HIS DEPUTY WILL PROBABLY VISIT TEHRAN FEBRUARY 20 OR 22 TO WORK OUT FINAL DETAILS OF AN ANTI-POLLUTION AGREEMENT FOR THE GULF (LONDON 644, TEHRAN 271, STATE 8212 ALL NOTAL). HE WOULD THEN EXPECT IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

KHALATBARY TO BRING THE AGREEMENT WITH HIM FOR FINAL SIGNATURE WHEN HE VISITS OMAN, WHERE HE HAS BEEN EXPECTED FOR SOME TIME.

5. ON SAUDI RELATIONS, ZAWAWI EXPRESSED HOPE, BOLSTERED BY SOME EXPECTATION, THAT PRINCE FAH'D MIGHT VISIT OMAN IN FEBRUARY. OMANIS WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THEIR SITUATION TO HIM DIRECTLY, SO THAT HE MIGHT ISSUE

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 009416

R 031846Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7880  
INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANAA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WILL FACILITATE OMANI RELATIONS WITH THE SAUDIS. ZAWAWI WAS AT PAINS TO EXPLAIN HE DID NOT WANT TO COMPLAIN OR IN ANY WAY MAKE

TROUBLE, BUT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT SENIOR SAUDI  
MINISTERS WERE NOT AWARE OF THE RELATIVELY LOW VOLUME  
OF EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE SAUDIS PROVIDED OMAN AND HAD THE  
IMPRESSION THAT SAUDIS WERE GIVING MUCH MORE THAN THEY  
WERE. OMANIS HOPED, THROUGH PRINCE FAH'D, TO DEVELOP A  
BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SITUATION IN SAUDI MINDS  
AS WELL AS GAIN CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR POINT OF VIEW ON  
CURRENT OMANI-SAUDI BORDER NEGOTIATIONS (SEE SEPTEL  
NOTAL). IN DEALING WITH SAUDIS, ZAWAWI SAID HE HAS BEEN  
EMPHASIZING THAT ACTIVITIES OF PDRY REPRESENT MUCH  
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GRAVER AND MORE IMMEDIATE DANGER TO SAUDI ARABIA, AS  
WELL AS TO NORTH YEMEN AND OMAN, THAN DOES ISRAEL.  
WHILE OMANIS DO NOT BEGRUDGE LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE  
SAUDIS ARE PROVIDING ARAB GOVERNMENTS IN CONFRONTATION  
WITH ISRAEL, THEY HOPE TO STIMULATE BETTER SAUDI APPRE-  
CIATION OF OMAN'S ROLE IN CONTAINING PDRY.

6. ON OMANI GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, ZAWAWI RESPONDED TO  
OUR INDIRECT QUERIES WITH INDICATION THAT HE IS LIKELY  
TO REMAIN AS FOREIGN MINISTER FOR SOME TIME AND DOES NOT  
ASPIRE TO BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES (SUCH AS THAT OF  
PRIME MINISTER) IF IT WOULD MEAN GREATER INVOLVEMENT  
IN RUNNING DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OMAN. HE THOUGHT IT  
MIGHT BE GOOD IDEA FOR OMANI GOVERNMENT TO BE REFORMED  
SO THAT THERE IS LESS PRESSURE ON SULTAN FROM NEED TO  
CONSULT WITH TWELVE DIFFERENT MINISTERS. A PRIME  
MINISTER WITH A DEPUTY MIGHT BE AN IMPROVEMENT, PERHAPS  
IF THE TWO DIVIDED RESPONSIBILITIES, ONE FOR DOMESTIC  
AFFAIRS AND THE OTHER FOR FOREIGN. AS FOR HIMSELF,  
ZAWAWI JOKED THAT HE HAS REACHED HIS (PETER PRINCIPLE)  
"LEVEL OF INCOMPETENCE" IN PRESENT JOB.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PGOV, PINT, EAID, MU, SA, IR, US  
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